Design and Technology

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."   Abraham Lincoln.

Intent

At Balcombe School it is our intention to create ambitious designers and technologists that do not just stop at their curiosity of how things work, but instead look at how they can think creatively to problem solve and make improvements. Furthermore, children develop resilience to find ways to overcome obstacles that they encounter when making a product. They need a hands-on approach that also gives access to other areas of the curriculum such as Mathematics, Science, Engineering, Computing and Art. Our intention is that D&T lessons will fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum where children will design, make, evaluate and develop their technical knowledge. They will also learn where our food comes from and how to prepare and cook a variety of savoury dishes.

Implementation

Our Design and Technology curriculum is implemented through a variety of different projects over children's time at Balcombe School. Through the support of the Design and Technology Association (DATA) scheme, children will progressively develop their skills, knowledge and understanding as they move through each class, completing two projects a year.

Children will work in a range of contexts, such as home, school, leisure, culture and story-based. Children will be given a variety of real life products to explore, expanding their knowledge of how they look and work, allowing for evaluation against their target market and purpose.

For each project, children are given a design brief to work to. They follow the design, make and evaluate sequence, allowing them to reflect and think of ways that they can improve or adapt their product. On occasion, pupils may be asked to complete an activity focussing on just one area of this process, ie designing but not making, or evaluating the designs/products of others. Where possible, we ensure that the brief is linked to another area of their learning or has relevance to the children to inspire their imagination and eagerness to create and problem solve.

Safety is explained and modelled at the start of and throughout each product, including food hygiene instructions.

In D&T children are often asked to work collaboratively as part of a team, learning to support and help each other towards a challenging, yet rewarding, goal.

Impact

Children leave Balcombe school:

- prepared for life in an ever-changing technological world;
- with an ability to problem solve by designing and creating a variety of products using a safe approach;
- having grown in confidence and enjoyed learning about design and technology, which they will then apply to other areas of the curriculum;
- having developed technical vocabulary, skills and knowledge sufficiently to enable them to access the curriculum at KS3 and beyond.